



IOM Sierra Leone Flood Response

SITUATION REPORT | 21 September 2015



From L to R: IOM Health Screeners at work at Atuga Stadium; conducting a PHU visit after the floods at Kroo Bay Community Health Center; flood victims line up to register at Atuga Stadium on 18 September and the aftermath of the flood at Kroo Bay.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- On 16 September 2015, torrential rains (147mm over 6 hours) in Sierra Leone caused heavy flooding and extensive damage to roughly 1400 homes in Freetown as well as low lying areas in the districts of Bo and Pujehun. 9 deaths have been reported. Roads, drainage and power infrastructure also suffered significant damage.
- As of 20 September 2015, over 13,000 persons have been registered by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs and are seeking assistance at 2 officially sanctioned displacement sites- the Siaka Stevens National Stadium and the Atuga Stadium. Roughly 1000 are sleeping overnight at each site and WFP and private donors have been supplying food while IMC, US CDC and UNFPA are providing clinical care. An urgent request for more shelter, blankets and medicines has been issued at Atuga Stadium as of 21 September.
- It is suspected that a large number of unaffected persons are also included in those attending the stadiums. However it has been noted that many affected persons are staying in flood-hit areas to protect their homes and personal belongings.
- Discussions are ongoing on potential relocation sites for the displaced. The government has indicated a green field site near the former Hastings airfield where up to 10,000 persons may be relocated from low-lying flood prone coastal communities. Initially, prefabricated housing will be made available for 5,000 persons with food provided by WFP for the first several months until alternative strategies are developed.

IOM's Response

- 30 IOM staff have been deployed to the 2 IDP sites.
- 3 IOM staff had their homes damaged or washed away in the flooding and a solidarity fund has been initiated.
- IOM has been requested by the Minister of Social Welfare to provide registration cards for the head of each affected household Siaka Stevens National Stadium
- Deployment of 24-hour health screeners (4 personnel) and health screening monitors (12 personnel) supervised by Senior Monitors (4) and one National Project Officer at request of MOHS.
- Resupply of handwashing station materials to include hand sanitizer and liquid soap.
- Deployment of 6 social mobilizers to conduct messaging on Ebola, IPC, hand hygiene and general health promotion. IOM's 32 social mobilizers will be trained on cholera and infectious disease prevention amidst heightened reports of watery diarrhea in the flood affected areas and the increased possibility of an outbreak of waterborne diseases.

Atuga Stadium (Freetown)

- Deployment of 8 IPC specialists to conduct health screening and monitoring and 10 handwashing stations and resupply of related IPC materials. PPE and boot provision to latrine cleaning crews.
- Deployment of 6 social mobilizers to conduct messaging on Ebola, IPC, hand hygiene and general health promotion and support IDP registration.
- Deployment of 1 international project officer for command and control purposes.
- NFI's and shelter: 200 mattresses (80 distributed), 200 blankets and 100 tarps (general purpose within Freetown).

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